

on the south, we trace them by the mounds which are to be found in almost every county of West Virginia, and throughout the Mississippi Valley and by the ruined structures in the southwestern part of our country. But, who were they? What their origin, and what their fate? Alas, we shall never know! Contemporary history furnishes no aid, for they were isolated from all the world beside. They have disappeared from the earth with not a line of recorded history left behind them.

"Antiquity appears to have begun

Long after their primeval race was run."—*Campbell.*

**2. The Ancestors of the Indians.**—Were the Mound Builders the ancestors of the Indians? It is not probable that they were. At the time of the discovery of America, in 1492, many thousands of individuals, existing in all the various conditions of society, from the lowest stage of barbarism, to that of a half civilized state,

from scientists and antiquarians at home and abroad than any other relic found in the United States. The characters are now conceded to be of European origin, and, if this be true, then there is evidence that Europeans visited this continent before the coming of Columbus. But who were they? No reply can be made beyond the fact that they were of those acquainted with some ancient alphabet known and used along the coast and among the islands of the European continent. Powell, the antiquarian, says: "Four of the characters correspond to the ancient Greek, four to the Etruscan, five to the Norse, six to the Gaelic, seven to the old Euse, and ten to the Phœnician." Certain it is that these characters were those of the ancient rock alphabet consisting of right and acute angled strokes used by the Pelasgi and other early Mediterranean people and which is the parent of the modern Runic as well as of the Basque. How came this Stone to be in a West Virginia mound is a question which scientists and antiquarians will continue to ask, but one which will never be answered.

were found roaming from place to place in the American wilderness. They were altogether ignorant of the country from which their ancestors had come, and of the period at which they had been transplanted to the New World. And, although there were traditions among them seeming to cast some light upon these subjects, yet, when thoroughly investigated, they tended rather to bewilder than to lead to any satisfactory conclusions. They knew no more of the work of the Mound Builders than we do.

**3. The Tribal Organizations of the Indians.**—The Indians, though seeming to know nothing whatever of any form of national government, nevertheless existed in great tribal organizations, each having its distinctive characteristics and name, and each confined, in a way, to certain geographical limits and under the leadership of ruling chiefs. Thus, in New England, were the Pequods and Narragansetts; in New York and Pennsylvania, the Six Nations; in Virginia, the Powhatans; in Tennessee and other southern states, the Cherokees, Creeks, Catawbas, Seminoles and Yamasees, while north and west of the Ohio dwelt the Miamas, Potawatamies and several other tribes.

**4. The Indians of West Virginia.**—That part of the present State of West Virginia south of the Great Kanawha river was claimed by the Cherokees, while the region drained by that stream and its tributaries, was occupied by the Shawnees, one of the most warlike tribes with which the white people came in contact; they had towns within the present county

of Greenbrier, and a large one at the mouth of Old Town creek, in Mason county; this latter they abandoned about the year



AN INDIAN WARRIOR.

1763. That part of the State between the Little Kanawha river and the present site of Wheeling, was the hunting ground of the Mingos, who had their towns on the northern bank of the Ohio, near where Steubenville now stands. The valley of the Monongahela river was occupied by the Delawares, while the region now embraced in the counties of Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson, was the home of the Tus-

caroras, which tribe removed from North Carolina in 1712, and, becoming one of the Confederated Tribes afterward known as the Six Nations, settled here. Tuscarora creek, which flows through the city of Martinsburg, derives its name from this tribe.

**5. The Supremacy of the Six Nations.**—The most powerful Indian Confederacy in America was that of the Six Nations, or the Five Nations, before



it was joined by the Tuscaroras; until then, it was composed of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagos, Cayugas and Senecas. The names of rivers and lakes in western New York indicate the former residence of these tribes. Fierce and warlike, they triumphed over the Eries, Susquehannas and other eastern nations. Then turning southward, they carried their victorious arms to the Tennessee, and westward to the shores of Lake Superior, and in 1675, they compelled allegiance on the part of the Delawares, Shawnees and other tribes. Thus, by conquest, they established their title to all the territory between the Alleghany mountains and the Great Lakes, and thus their rule was supreme in West Virginia. The Indians residing here acknowledged their supremacy.

**6. The West Virginia Hunting Grounds.**—During the period of Indian occupation, West Virginia was a favorite hunting ground for many tribes. Over these extensive wilds, herds of bison, elk and deer roamed at will, all the way from the Alleghanies to the Ohio, and bear and much other game abounded in all this region. Here the Indian built his wigwam along the courses of the streams, and then chased the game through the dense forests, or wended his way along the war-path against the foe of his own race who had dared to trespass upon his hunting grounds.

**7. Indian Battlefields Within the State.**—Long before the coming of white men to West Virginia, the Indians quarreled and warred among themselves

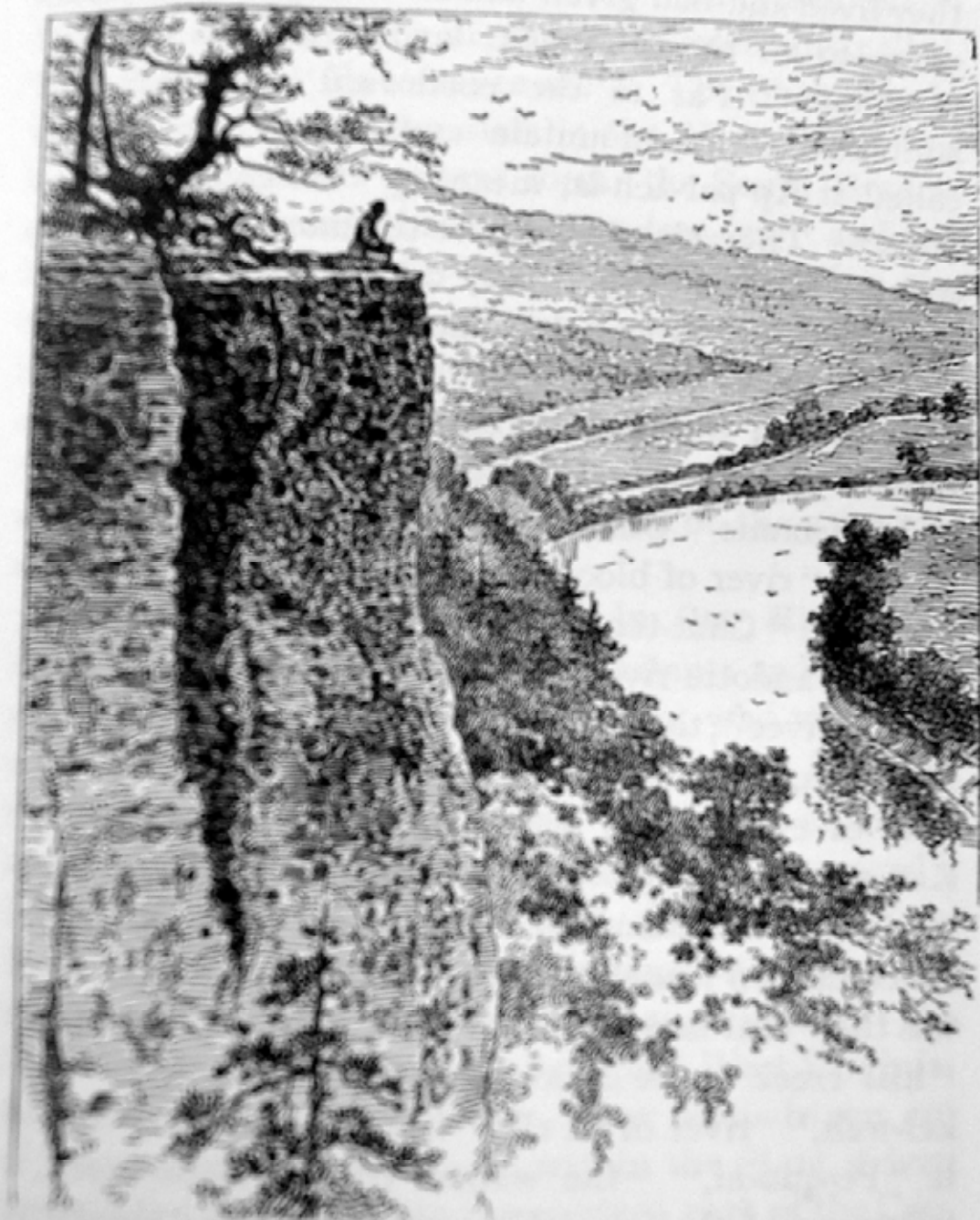
and engaged in many bloody battles. Traditions of these struggles were preserved and communicated to the white settlers when they came to occupy the land. A bloody battle occurred about the year 1700, opposite the mouth of Antietam Creek, now in Jefferson county, on the Potomac river, between the



AN INDIAN WIGWAM.

Delaware and Catawba tribes. Every Delaware engaged, except one, was killed and every Catawba carried away a scalp. Other engagements between the savage warriors took place at the mouth of Opequon, near the mouth of the South Branch of the Potomac,

and at Hanging Rocks, now in the county of Hampshire. This latter was, perhaps, the most fiercely



HANGING ROCKS, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY.

contested battle which the Indians ever fought among themselves in West Virginia.



**8. Indian Geography of West Virginia.**—These Indian inhabitants knew all the country in which they lived and had given names—many of them pretty ones—to all the prominent landmarks and rivers of the State. Far to the northward and southward stretched a vast mountain system, and the Indians called it *Ap-pal-ach-ia*, meaning "the endless mountains." They clambered over the mountains so long covered with snow and they called them the "*Alle-gha-my*," signifying "the place of the foot print," or "the impression of the feet."

**9. Indian Names of West Virginia Rivers.**—The Indians warred for the possession of the Ohio Valley and the name "*Ohio*" was given to the river, meaning the "river of blood." The Big Sandy river was called the "*Chat-ter-a-wha*," the "river of sand-bars"; the Guyandotte river, the "*Se-co-nee*," the narrow bottom river"; the Great Kanawha river was the "*Ken-ka-she-ka*," meaning in the Shawnee language "the river of evil spirits" but the Delawares called it the *Kan-a-wha*, "the place of the white stone." *O-nim-go-how* was the name of the Little Kanawha river; *Pe-co-tal-i-co* meant "plenty of fat doe"; Cole river was the "*Wal-hon-de*" of the Delawares, signifying the "hill creek"; the Shawnees called Elk river, "*Tis-ke-l-wah*," "river of fat elk," but the Delawares called it "*Pe-quo-ni*," "the walnut river"; Paint creek, a tributary of the Great Kanawha river, was known to the Delawares as "*Ot-to-we*," or "deer creek"; *Gan-ley* river was the "*To-ke-bel-lo-ke*" of the Delawares, meaning the "falling creek"; the Greenbrier

river was known to the Miamas as the "We-ot-o-we," while the Delawares called it "O-ne-pa-ke"; Blue Stone river was the "Mo-mon-go-sen-eka," "the big stone creek," of the Delawares who called East river the "Ta-le-mo-te-no." The Shenandoah was "the river of the stars"; the Po-to-meck has been changed to its present form; the South Branch of the Potomac was the "Wap-pa-tom-ica," and the North Branch the "Co-hon-go-ru-ta", meaning the "river of the wild goose;" the Delawares called the river on which they lived the "Mo-non-ga-he-la" signifying the "river of caving banks." "Weeling," "the place of the skull," was the name of Wheeling creek, and from it we have the name of the principal city of the State.

**10. The Indian as a Factor in Our History.**—Such was West Virginia, its inhabitants and geography, before the coming of white men, who were destined to build homes in the wilderness, but in doing this, they were to dispute its possession with the Indians, who for more than a hundred years waged a fierce and relentless warfare upon the white settlers. But it was a struggle between civilization and barbarism and the result was the final supremacy of the former. The people who once occupied West Virginia, and made much of its history, have been driven out of the territory now embraced within the State, driven beyond the Mississippi to the western part of the Continent.

"A moment, and the pagan's gone;  
The sad man are no more.

The pale-faced stranger stands alone  
Upon the snow-shoes."

—Paulding.



## CHAPTER III.

### THE FOUNDING OF EUROPEAN COLONIES ON THE ATLANTIC COAST.

From 1607 to 1669.

**1. The Partition of a Continent.**—No sooner did Columbus make known to Europe the existence of a New World, than many nations hastened to possess portions of it. Spain was the country that aided Columbus in making the discovery and that kingdom proceeded to conquer its newly acquired possessions, and by these triumphs, the civilizations of Mexico and Peru perished from the earth. France was not slow to profit by the discovery of Columbus. Far away, hundreds of miles toward the Arctic Circle, she took possession of the country along the St. Lawrence and around Lake Champlain, and hastened to plant colonies. Between the Spanish possessions on the south and those of France on the north, lay a territory extending from the 34th to the 50th parallel of north latitude, and stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. England laid claim to all this region, basing her right upon the discoveries of John and Sebastian Cabot, who were the first to explore the eastern coast of North America, they having sailed from Labrador to the Capes of Virginia in the year 1498.

## 2. How West Virginia was Settled by White Men.

—West Virginia being an inland State, was not settled by emigrants from Europe, as were the States along the Atlantic Coast. It was from these that the white settlers of West Virginia chiefly came, and if we would properly understand the history of our own State, we must, before beginning its study, learn something of the colonization of the States from which the people came to settle ours.

**3. Colonization of Virginia.**—Virginia, of which West Virginia was so long a part, is the oldest American State. One hundred and fifteen years passed away after the discovery by Columbus, and in that time, no white man had found a home in all the country from the Everglades of Florida to the Pine-clad hills of Nova Scotia. But the time was now at hand when civilized men should come to found a great nation in America. In 1606, the English King, James I., granted a patent for territory in America to a corporation composed of men of his kingdom, to be known as the Virginia Company of London, and the object was the founding of a permanent colony in the New World.

**4. Collecting the Colonists.**—The Company immediately set about the work before it, and colonists to the number of one hundred and five were speedily collected in and about London, and a little fleet, which was to bear them from the shores of the Old World to the wilds of the New, lay at anchor at the docks of Blackwall, and here, on December 19th, 1606, the colonists went on board, and the next day